

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 06186 081740Z

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ACTION SS-25

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O 081730Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2985

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 6186

EXDIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS, EG

REF: STATE 220759

1. I MET WITH RABIN AT 1700 TODAY, PRESENTED OUR CASE ON SUEZ IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, AND THEN ASKED FOR HIS SUGGESTIONS AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED.

2. RABIN SAID THAT WE SHOULD FIRST MOVE TO DEFUSE THE SITUATION. HE SUGGESTED A "COOLING OFF PERIOD" FOR A WEEK DURING WHICH WE SHOULD EITHER HERE OR IN WASHINGTON EXCHANGE FULL INFORMATION ON WHAT LIES AHEAD OF US WITH REGARD TO OIL DRILLING CONCESSIONS IN THE GULF. WE COULD THEN WORK OUT A MODUS OPERANDI WHICH WOULD SATISFY THE U.S., THE ISRAELIS AND SAFEGUARD AMOCO'S INTERESTS EVEN IF THE EGYPTIANS MIGHT NO BE WHOLLY PLEASED. RABIN MADE CLEAR ISRAELIS SIMPLY CANNOT MAKE ANY DECISIONS WITHOUT FULLER INFORMATION ON WHAT LIES AHEAD IN GULF OPERATIONS. RE FIRING, RABIN ADMITTED THIS RESULT OF LOCAL INDISCRETION, WAS TOTALLY UNAUTHORIZED, AND NOT KNOWN TO RESPONSIBLE GOI OFFICIALS. HE CAME CLOSE TO AN APOLOGY.

3. IN RABIN' VIEW, BOTH SIDES SHOULD DO THEIR UTMOST TO TONE DOWN INFLAMATORY PRESS COVERAGE, AND HE WANTED US TO KNOW THAT HE FELT DEPARTMENTAL SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT SEPT. 7 WAS JUST RIGHT. IF PRESS SHOULD INQUIRE AS TO PURPOSE OF OUR

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 06186 081740Z

MEETING, RABIN SUGGESTED--AND I AGREED--THAT WE SHOULD SAY

SIMPLY THAT OUR MEETING WAS PART OF ONGOING DISCUSSIONS
CONCERNING SUEZ DEVELOPMENTS AS WELL AS OTHER MATTERS.

4. ABOVE REPRESENTS BRIEFEST SUMMARY OF OUR CONVERSATION
WHICH I FELT YOU WOULD WISH TO HAVE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
FULL REPORT FOLLOWS SEPTTEL. TOON

SECRET

NNN

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